HETEROPHILIC ANTIBODIES TO FSH ARE ASSOCIATED WITH POOR IVF/ICSI OUTCOME EVEN IN THE PRESENCE OF NORMAL ANTRAL FOLLICLE COUNT.

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Aim: To look for the presence of heterophilic antibodies in women with High serum FSH values (10 miu/ml) and follow up their IVF/ICSI outcome.

Study: Prospective observational study.

Setting: Teaching hospital.

Materials and methods: 200 consecutive serum samples with initial value more than 10 miu/ml were subjected to repeat analysis. If the repeat value was high then the same sample was studied in dilution. It was also sent for an inter lab check. The samples showing a significant lowering of values in both dilution and inter lab check were then subjected to the heterophilic antibody detection test. The IVF/ICSI outcome was observed for all participants in this group.

Results: In 4 samples out of the 200 studied, there was significant lowering of FSH levels in both dilution and inter lab checks. The samples showing a significant lowering of values in both dilution and inter lab check were then subjected to the heterophilic antibody detection test. The IVF/ICSI outcome was observed for all participants in this group.

Conclusion: Heterophilic antibodies to FSH are seen in a small subgroup of women coming for fertility treatment. They tend to present with high FSH but normal antral follicle count. Their detection appears to be kit specific as inter lab checks gave significantly different values. In spite of a normal antral follicle count, the ovarian response and IVF/ICSI outcome appears to be poor.